

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS

INDIA RISING

Tradition Meets Modernity

February 27 and 28, 2009 Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Presented with support from the Consul General of India in San Francisco; Grants for the Arts/SF Hotel Tax Fund; Bank of the West; Center for South Asia Studies, UC Berkeley; Music Department at UC Santa Cruz and the Hasan Endowment for Indian Classical Music; Swedish American Hall; Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University; International House Berkeley; Society for the Arts and Cultural Heritage of India (SACHI); and University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim. Special Support for SF Unified School District teacher stipends provided by SFUSD Academics and Professional Development, Office of Learning Support and Equity.

In cooperation with American Decorative Arts Forum of Northern California; Asian Art Museum; Asia Society Northern California; Docents Council of SF Fine Arts Museums; Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning; SF State University Humanities Department; India Community Center (Milpitas); Leonardo da Vinci Society; Mechanics' Institute; Office of Resources for International Area Studies (ORIAS), University of California; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; SF and Alameda County Unified School Districts; Center for South Asian Studies, Stanford University; Symposium Great Books Institute; and Theatre Bay Area.

INDIA RISING

Tradition Meets Modernity

Moderator: Raka Ray

(Sarah Kailath Chair in Indian Studies, Chair of the Center for South Asia Studies, and Associate Professor of Sociology and South and Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley)

In Partnership with the **Consul General of India in San Francisco, Center for South Asia Studies, UC Berkeley and the Music Department, UC Santa Cruz.**

India's artists, in pace with their country's rapid modernization, have adopted many contemporary techniques. Yet past traditions remain strong. Familiar themes and modern modes of expression interplay with fruitful creative tension. Abstract and surrealist artists incorporate images of legendary gods and heroes in their work, and musicians create

exciting new sounds in collaboration with Western jazz and classical performers. Literature and cinema with rural village scenes compete with others featuring urban landscapes, Indian-American cultural fusion, and the seductive joys of Bollywood. The result: unique new delights for the eye, the ear, and the spirit.

Friday, February 27, 2009

8:00 pm – 10:15 pm

Special Pre-program Musical Performance — 7:30 pm

JOANNA MACK, *sitar* and TIM WITTER, *tabla* (Ali Akbar College of Music)

Welcome and Introduction

PATRICIA LUNDBERG, Executive Director, and RAKA RAY, Moderator

Keynote Address

India Rising: the Soft Power of an Ancient Land in the 21st Century

SHASHI THAROOR (Chairman, Afras Ventures)

Many thinkers and writers in recent years have spoken of India's geo-strategic advantages, its economic dynamism, political stability, proven military capabilities, its nuclear, space and missile programmes, and the country's growing pool of young and skilled manpower as assuring India "great power" status as a "world leader" in the new century. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, author and former UN Under-Secretary-General,

argues that it is not these elements that represent India's greatest potential as it seeks to play its role in our globalizing world. Instead, he focuses on the "soft power" of India, its attributes and limitations and the challenges it faces, as he outlines India's true place in Asia and the world and what it could mean for the country's future in the 21st century.

Twenty-minute Intermission: Refreshment Service in Lobby

Intermission slide show courtesy of **CHUCK SIELOFF, PhD**. Intermission recorded music: from a performance by **VIVEK ANAND** (voice) **PRASANT RADHAKRISHNAN** (sax) **BISHU CHATTERJEE** (bass) and **RALPH GRANICH** (drums).

Indian Art: Tradition Meets Modernity

SANTHI KAVURI-BAUER (San Francisco State University)

This illustrated lecture traces the development of modern art in India starting with the adaptation of the academic style by Raja Ravi Varma in the 1880s, through the period of creative tension among artists seeking to reconcile Western styles with traditional subject matter and practice, including Abindranath Tagore, Nandalal Bose, Amrita Sher Gil. Post-

Independence, artists like M.F. Husain, Jamini Roy and F.N. Souza began to explore more abstract and personal themes. Professor Kavuri-Bauer concludes by focusing on several contemporary artists, who combine traditional symbols, forms and processes with modern media techniques and address the important social issues facing India today.

Introduction

RAKA RAY, Moderator

Sacred Games: A Reading

VIKRAM CHANDRA (UC Berkeley)

Chandra, one of modern India's greatest novelists, reads from a Victorian-Indian-gangster-spy-family saga, placing his work into the broad context of Indian literature today.

Twenty-minute Intermission: Refreshment Service in Lobby

Intermission slide show courtesy of **CHUCK SIELOFF, PhD.** Intermission recorded music: from a performance by **VIVEK ANAND** (voice) **PRASANT RADHAKRISHNAN** (sax) **BISHU CHATTERJEE** (bass) and **RALPH GRANICH** (drums).

Indian Music: Traditions and Transitions

DARD NEUMAN (UC Santa Cruz) lectures on Indian music and demonstrates the sitar, with rare recordings.

Break for Lunch: Theatre Closed 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Special Pre-program Musical Performance — 1:00 pm

JOANNA MACK, *sitar* and **TIM WITTER**, *tabla* (Ali Akbar College of Music)

1:30 pm

Mirrors of Tradition and Modernity: Cinema of Satyajit Ray, Independent Cinema and Bollywood

DILIP BASU (UC Santa Cruz)

Professor Basu, illustrating with film clips, argues that the past and present, uses the modern medium to the fullest while following the traditional Indian dramaturgy in form and content. India remain quintessentially modern. Popular cinema, both

Stretch Break

Reality Television and the New India

RAKA RAY (UC Berkeley)

As *American Idol* again draws high television ratings in February, Professor Ray discusses the *Indian Idol* phenomenon, in which the women and the rich men are voted off first in support of upward mobility for the poor Nepalese boy who eventually wins, and in a sense causes the upward mobility of his whole community, generating pride within the regionally underserved.

Intermission

Panel Discussion

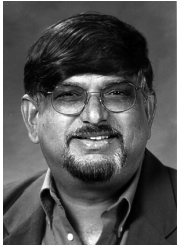
RAKA RAY, Moderator

Santhi Kavuri-Bauer, Vikram Chandra, Dard Neuman, Dilip Basu, and Saikat Majumdar

Questions From The Audience

Please fill out a card with your questions for any of the presenters, to be discussed at the closing Panel Discussion on Saturday.

About Our Presenters



Dilip K. Basu is Founding Director of the Satyajit Ray Film and Study Center and Associate Professor of History at University of California, Santa Cruz, where he teaches Chinese and Indian history. Dilip K. Basu took his PhD at UC Berkeley. The Archives and Study Center on Satyajit Ray (satyajitray.ucsc.edu) is now in its fifteenth year at UC Santa Cruz. He also worked to establish an innovative, culturally focused South Asia Studies Center at UC Santa Cruz. Professor Basu had a moderate role in the international effort that led to the Lifetime Achievement Special Oscar awarded to Satyajit Ray in 1992. With an initial grant from the Academy of Motion Pictures Archives, Basu organized the Ray Archives at UCSC and the Ray Society in Calcutta. Basu coordinates the restoration and preservation of Ray's films at the Academy of Motion Pictures Archives in Los Angeles. To date, out of Ray's 37-film oeuvre, 13 have been restored and the rest will follow. Restored film elements are preserved at the Academy's vault. Professor Basu's publications include *Women in Satyajit Ray's Cinema*. Oxford, England, and New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming; *Satyajit Ray: The Oscar Story*, ed. Santa Cruz: University of California, Ray Film and Study Collection, 1998; *A Troubled Vision: Satyajit Ray's India*, 1997 (video). *Satyajit Ray: Preserving a Luminous Legacy*, 1996. (video).



Santhi Kavuri-Bauer is Assistant Professor of Art History in the College of Creative Arts at San Francisco State University. Her PhD is from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her scholarly research focuses on the preservation and representation of South Asian architectural monuments, on issues of artistic agency, the intersection of modernist aesthetics in the colonial and postcolonial world, and the visual culture of contemporary Asia. She teaches the arts of Asia (India, China, and Japan), the Islamic world, as well as Asian American Art, focusing on the relationship of art to the social, political, and religious contexts that lend it meaning.



Born and raised in New Delhi, **Vikram Chandra** attended Film School at Columbia University in New York, where he was inspired to write his first novel, *Red Earth and Pouring Rain*; it won the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book and the David Higham Prize. He has also written the short story collection *Love and Longing in Bombay*, for which he won the 1997 Commonwealth Writers Prize. His most recent book, the celebrated *Sacred Games* (2007), has been called "a great novel, perhaps the greatest book on Bombay ever written" (*Hindustan Times*). His work has been translated into 15 languages. He is also the winner of the Hutch Crossword Prize, a Salon.com Book Award, and the Paris Review Discovery Prize. He currently divides his time between Mumbai (Bombay) and Berkeley, where he teaches creative writing at the University of California.



Joanna Mack began her pursuit of Classical North Indian Music in 1997. While studying Neuroscience at UCSD, she attended a Classical Indian Music class with sitar virtuoso Kartik Seshadri, a senior disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar of the Maihar Gharana. She had been involved in Western music since childhood but was immediately drawn to Indian music. She abandoned her plan for medical school and devoted herself to Indian Classical Music. Kartikji recommended her to Pandit Deepak Choudhuri, another senior disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar. That year, Joanna traveled to India where she studied under him through 2005. Joanna then returned to the United States, promising Deepakji that she would continue her studies and pass on the values and ideas of the Maihar Gharana. She teaches private and group classes and performs in a variety of venues. She continues her studies with classes under Ustad Ali Akbar Khan at the Ali Akbar College of Music and is under the guidance of Maestro Kartik Seshadri.



Saikat Majumdar presented a special lecture for Humanities West *THE ENIGMA OF ARRIVAL: Modern India and Anglophone Literature* and held a conversation with **Vikram Chandra**, author of *Sacred Games* and one of India's foremost novelists, at the Mechanics' Institute on February 17 and extended the lecture at the Commonwealth Club February 27. Now Assistant Professor of English and the Program in Modern Thought and Literature at Stanford University, Prof. Majumdar grew up in India and has studied and taught in the USA and Canada. He teaches and writes about modernist and contemporary English literature from Britain and its former colonies. He is the author of a novel, *Silverfish* (HarperCollins India, 2007), several essays and reviews in academic and mainstream publications, and a forthcoming book on the political and aesthetic significance of an interrelated group of motifs – banality, boredom, the everyday and the mundane, in writing from Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and India, ranging from the late-nineteenth century to the present day.



Dard Neuman, Kamil and Talat Hasan Endowed Chair in Classical Indian Music at University of California Santa Cruz, specializes in North Indian Classical music and is traditionally trained as a performer on the sitar. As an anthropologist-ethnomusicologist he is interested in colonialism, nationalism, and technology and performance. He teaches sitar as well as a survey course on Indian music (both South and North Indian). He received his PhD in North Indian Classical music from Columbia University in 2004.



Raka Ray, Sarah Kailath Chair in Indian Studies, is Associate Professor of Sociology and South and Southeast Asia Studies, and Chair of the Center for South Asia Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She grew up in Calcutta, India, but has moved steadily west since then, receiving her AB from Bryn Mawr

continued on page 8

Selected Chronology on Modern India

Compiled by Humanities West Intern Andrew Linford (Stanford University)

- | | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------|--|
| 1848–1906 | Raja Ravi Varma changed Indian art by fusing Indian and European traditions with depictions of the Mahabharata and Ramayana epics | 1984 | Indira Gandhi is assassinated by Sikh bodyguards and is succeeded by her son Rajiv |
| 1913 | Rabindranath Tagore is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, the first and last to an Indian writer | 1991 | India liberalizes its protectionist economy |
| 1913 | First silent feature film in India made: Raja Harishchandra by Dadasaheb Phalke | 1992 | Hindu extremists destroy a mosque in Ayodhya |
| 1921 | Satyajit Ray born | 1992 | Satyajit Ray receives honorary Academy Award and later dies |
| 1947 | Lord Mountbatten announces the partition of the Indian colony in two independent countries, India and Pakistan | 1996 | M.F. Husain painting of nude Indian deities becomes controversial |
| 1947 | Jawaharlal Nehru becomes the first prime minister of India | 1997 | Arundhati Roy wins Booker Prize for <i>The God of Small Things</i> |
| 1948 | Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated by a Hindu extremist | 1998 | Amartya Sen wins Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences, for contributions to welfare economics |
| 1948 | India refuses to allow the plebiscite in Kashmir and Kashmir separatism is born (40,000 people will die in 55 years) | 1998 | BJP forms coalition government under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee |
| 1950 | Indian Constitution goes into effect | 2000 | The population of India is one billion |
| 1955 | Satyajit Ray's first film <i>Pather Panchali</i> is released and establishes his reputation as a major film director, winning many awards such as Cannes in 1956 and Best Film, Vancouver, 1958 | 2004 | Despite an economic boom, a third of Indians live on less than a dollar a day |
| 1962 | India fights and loses a border war with China in Assam | 2004 | The Congress Party wins national elections but its leader, Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, lets Manmohan Singh, a Sikh, become India's new prime minister |
| 1964 | Indian Prime Minister Nehru dies | 2004 | Bangalore has 150,000 software engineers, more than the Silicon Valley in California |
| 1975 | Embroided in scandals, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declares a state of emergency, under which her political foes are imprisoned, constitutional rights abrogated, and the press placed under censorship | 2007 | Vikram Chandra's <i>Sacred Games</i> is released and receives many awards |
| 1981 | Salman Rushdie is awarded Booker Prize for <i>Midnight's Children</i> | 2008 | Salmon Rushdie is awarded Best of the Bookers Prize, after also winning the Booker of Bookers in 1993, for <i>Midnight's Children</i> (Booker, 1981) |
| 1983 | India wins Cricket World Cup | 2008 | On October 20, India launches its first unmanned spacecraft to the moon |
| | | 2008 | India has the second largest film industry in the world. |

Special Offer

Humanities West has produced a special edition education resource/reader with the assistance of Andrew Linford, Humanities West intern and student at Stanford University. It is available upon request to attendees via email in PDF, from info@humanitieswest.org.

For an extended bibliography and resources list, please go to the Humanities West website www.humanitieswest.org (Compiled by Charles Seiloff PhD)

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Bharat Mata/Map of India by MF Husain

A 2004 oil-on-canvas painting of a nude woman whose shape mimics the contours of the map of India, with the names of Indian cities written over her body. Husain, who fled the country two years ago fearing attacks from right-wing activists — they have vandalised his art shows in Delhi, London and Ahmedabad — had explained earlier before the apex court that he had already apologised on behalf of the auctioneer for naming the painting 'Bharat Mata', something he had not chosen.

—*The Times of India*





HUMANITIES WEST, a community-based non-profit organization, has been "exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts" since 1983. We present interdisciplinary programs, which evoke historic times and places that illuminate the human spirit. Our programs are designed to entertain and educate diverse audiences through a lively combination of lectures and performances that encompass the fine and performing arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts. Programs presented by Humanities West over the last decade have included Beauty and Treasures of IMPERIAL BEIJING; SICILY: Crossroads of Mediterranean Civilization; REMBRANDT and the Golden Age of the Netherlands; THE CRUSADES: Myth and Reality; VOLTAIRE and the French Enlightenment; Empire on Horseback: GENGHIS KHAN and the Mongols; ATHENS IN ITS GOLDEN AGE: The Age of Pericles, and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN and the Invention of America.

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About Our Presenters, *continued from page 4*

College, and her PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has been at Berkeley since 1993. Her areas of specialization are gender and feminist theory, domination and inequality, cultures of servitude and social movements. Publications on social movements include *Fields of Protest: Women's Movements in India* (University of Minnesota, 1999; and in India, Kali for Women, 2000), "Women's Movements in the Third World: Identity, Mobilization and Autonomy" with Anna Korteweg (*Annual Review of Sociology*, 1999) and *Social Movements in India: Poverty, Power, and Politics*, co-edited with Mary Katzenstein (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005). She is at present writing a book titled *Cultures of Servitude: The Making of a Middle Class in Calcutta and New York* with co-author Seemin Qayum.



Diplomat, Writer, and Chairman of Dubai-based Afras Ventures and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, **Shashi Tharoor** was the official candidate of India for the succession to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2006. He served at the UN from 1978 to 2007, initially on the staff of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. He had key responsibilities in peace-keeping after the Cold War and as a senior adviser to the Secretary-General as well as the UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. He is an award-winning author of ten books and hundreds of articles, op-eds and book reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *The Times of India* among others. He is a Contributing Editor and occasional columnist for *Newsweek International* and has regular columns in *The Hindu* and *The Times of India*. His non-fiction books include *Reasons of State* (1981); *India: From Midnight to The Millennium* (1997); *Kerala: God's Own Country* (2002) with text by Tharoor and paintings by M.F. Husain; *Neburu: The Invention of India* (2003); *Bookless in Baghdad* (2005); *The Elephant, The Tiger and the Cellphone: Reflections on India in the 21st Century* (2007). His fiction includes *The Great Indian Novel* (1989), *Riot* (2001), *Show Business* (1992) (since made into the movie "Bollywood"), and a

collection of short stories, *The Five-Dollar Smile* (1990). His books have been widely translated. Born in London, he was educated in India and the US, completing a PhD at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, where he received the Robert B. Stewart Prize for Best Student. There he helped found and was the first Editor of the *Fletcher Forum of International Affairs*. He awards include an honorary D.Litt. from the University of Puget Sound, a 1998 "Global Leader of Tomorrow" by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and India's highest honor for Overseas Indians, the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, in 2004. He serves on the Board of Overseers of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the Board of Trustees of the Aspen Institute, and the Advisory Boards of the Indo-American Arts Council, the American India Foundation, the *World Policy Journal*, the Virtue Foundation and the human rights organization Breakthrough. Dr. Tharoor has been appointed as an International Adviser to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva (2008–2011) and is a Fellow of the New York Institute of the Humanities and Patron of the Modern School, Dubai.

Tim Witter began his tabla training with Ustad Alla Rakha in 1980. He has studied since 1985 with Pandit Swapan Chauduri, the resident tabla teacher at the Ali Akbar College of Music. He has made numerous trips to India for study and performance, and in 1994–1995 completed a research/performance grant awarded to him by the American Institute of Indian Studies. Tim has taught at the Ali Akbar College of Music in Basel, Switzerland and has performed throughout Europe. Currently he is a staff teacher at the Ali Akbar College of Music in San Rafael, California as well as being an active performer and composer in Bay Area Indian classical and contemporary music scenes. In addition to studying tabla, Tim has lived in Madras, India and studied South Indian drumming from T.H. Subash Chandran. Tim was a co-recipient of the 1997 Isadora Duncan Award for Best Original Music for a New Dance Piece for his work in creating the score for "Sacred Text."



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Dard Neuman

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European Culture at the Crossroads

April 17 and 18, 2009



The French Revolution unleashed institution-shattering forces. Napoleon successfully refocused these forces on Europe, and the French tide swept over the continent, and even across the Mediterranean, leaving the remnants of many ancien regimes refashioned in its wake. Napoleon invaded Egypt yet crafted enlightened policy sympathetic to Islam, resurrected Roman civil law, inspired Beethoven, challenged Goethe and Tolstoy to think again, and bankrolled a return to grandeur in the fine arts. France's reassertion of pre-eminence varied from uncritical enthusiasm to repugnance, from the love-hate affair with the Russian aristocracy to British resistance to both armies and cultural influence. Moderator: Roger Hahn (UC Berkeley)

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April 14, 2009 — **A Fireside Chat with author/performer George Hammond at the Orinda Public Library**, 7:00 pm. Orinda Way, Orinda. 925.254.2184.

April 15, 2009 — 5:30 pm, **Reception**; 6:00 pm, **Lecture. Napoleon and the French Intellectuals**

ROGER HAHN (Professor Emeritus, History, UC Berkeley, and moderator for *CONFRONTING NAPOLEON*). Free to Members of **Mechanics' Institute** and Friends of **Humanities West**; Public \$12. Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post St., SF. (Montgomery Station BART/MUNI). Reservation line: 415-393-0100.

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Painter and Critic

APRIL 3

17th Annual Bliss Carnochan Lecture

Felicity Nussbaum

*Professor of English
University of California, Los Angeles*

APRIL 13

Presidential Lecture

James M. McPherson

*Davis '86 Professor Emeritus of United States History
Princeton University*

MAY 13

Arts Critics in Residence

Adam Gopnik

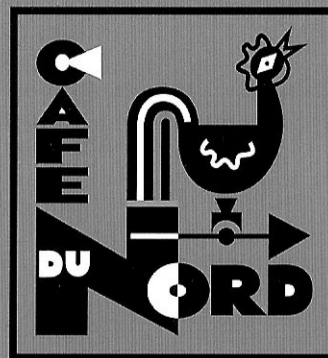
Author and New Yorker Writer

*All events are free and open to the public.
Events take place at Stanford University.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 650.723.3052
<http://shc.stanford.edu>

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Café du Nord Swedish American Hall

The Swedish American Hall was designed and built by expert craftsmen of the Swedish American Society shortly after the Great Quake of '06 and is meticulously maintained, to this day, by their descendants. This beautiful five-story building stands proudly on Market Street at the foot of the "Upper Market District," a bustling, well-lit corridor that is easily accessible by taxi and public transit.

The Swedish American Hall rents up to 4,000 square feet of event space; five rooms of varying sizes on three floors including the richly adorned "Freja Hall" which has a banquet capacity of 225 and a reception capacity of 350. The smaller halls add additional capacity and are perfect for breakout sessions, VIP lounges, galleries and classrooms.

The Cafe du Nord is located directly below the Swedish American Hall. This former speakeasy, long famous for its fine food, live entertainment and lush Victorian ambiance, also contains a professional sound system and stage to easily accommodate your entertainment and presentation needs. The two venues may be rented separately or together for large scale, multifaceted events.

The Swedish American Hall and the Cafe du Nord host more than 400 weddings, private events and performances each year. Our expansive catering menu is supervised by Chef John Lamkin, owner of the award-winning Russian Hill restaurant, "Street." Our highly trained staff can provide you with everything to ensure your event's success, including full service catering.

2170 Market Street San Francisco, CA www.cafedunord.com
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SAVE THE DATES!

Humanities West Announces its 25th Anniversary Season, 2009–2010 at Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler: Redefining Our Place in the Universe

October 2 and 3, 2009

Commemorating the 400th anniversary of modern astronomy and Galileo's first use of the telescope in 1609.



IYA2009, FETTU, NASA/ESA, P. Appleton,
JPL-Caltech, J. Uson, NRAO/AUI and
Palomar Sky Survey.

For centuries, religious belief and philosophical reasoning had placed man and his earthly home at the center of the universe. Changing that deep-seated and psychologically compelling conviction took courage, persistence, and a dedication to new methods of scientific observation and measurement on the part of three provincial scholars from Toruń in Poland, Weil der Stadt in Germany, and Pisa in Italy, and more than 150 years of controversy and confrontation. But those years of controversy succeeded beyond belief, leading to today's astronomical shifts in understanding of an expanding universe that may contain millions of life-supporting planets in our galaxy alone.

Alexander/Alexandria: The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture

February 5 and 6, 2010

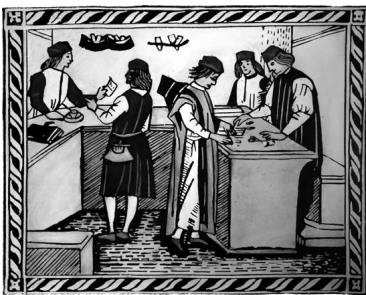


Alexandria by Piri Reis

Alexander conquered the vast Persian Empire and founded Alexandria before dying in his 33rd year in 323 BCE. In the aftermath, Greek literature, learning, and art intermingled with Egyptian, Iranian, Babylonian, and Hebrew cultures. The interplay of cultures caused ethnic, artistic, and religious conflicts and convergence. Nowhere did this convergence of cultures emerge more dramatically than in Alexandria, which became the royal seat of Hellenistic Egypt. Its Great Library and Museum and its Lighthouse—one of the ancient wonders of the world—became magnets for travelers from all around the Mediterranean and beyond. Though Alexandria's original Library was destroyed long ago, another has risen from its ashes, and the luster of Hellenistic Civilization that flourished for three centuries after Alexander still endures.

The Florence of the Medici: Commerce, Power, and Art in Renaissance Italy

April 30 and May 1, 2010



Interior of a bank owned by the Medici
family of Florence, Italian woodcut,
15th century.

Out of a small but fiercely competitive city of some 60,000 inhabitants there erupted, between the 1300s and 1600s, a torrent of artistic and intellectual creativity that transformed western culture. The wealth of the city, and especially of its rulers, the Medici, whose patronage and influence embraced much of Italy and beyond, made possible an outburst of artistic and intellectual innovations that had consequences throughout Europe. Home to Dante, Toscanelli (the geographer who inspired Columbus), Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and Galileo, Florence in these years was at the cutting edge of changes that eventually were to shape the modern world.

Look for Your Season Tickets Offer in May

Donor orders will receive first priority.

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Humanities West e-News brings you event notices, program updates and resource links. Sign up in the lobby or go to www.humanitieswest.org. **Special for HW Donors:** *Humanities West News* has “gone green” and is now available online. Please give us your email address at the lobby table or send to info@humanitieswest.org.



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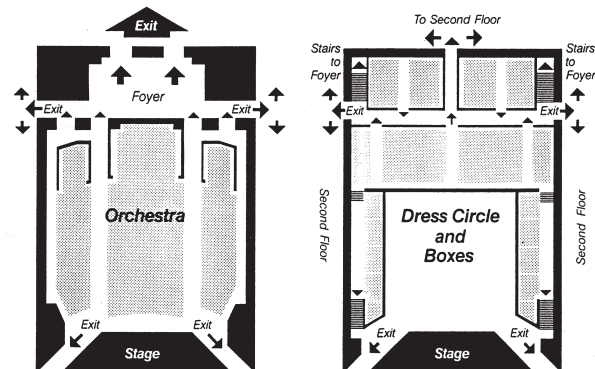
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SEAT IS THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO THE STREET. IN CASE OF
FIRE PLEASE DO NOT RUN — WALK THROUGH THAT EXIT.

A Sennheiser Listening System is installed at Herbst Theatre. Wireless headphones
and induction devices (adaptable to hearing aids) are available in the main lobby of
the theatre. There is no charge, but an ID deposit is required.